

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process of treating a fabric with a composition comprising a pre-swollen absorbent gelling material, said absorbent gelling material being water-insoluble, water-swellaable, and capable of forming a gel when said absorbent gelling material is contacted by moisture.
2. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said composition is a solid composition.
3. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises up to 80% by weight of a pre-swollen absorbent gelling material.
4. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said pre-swollen absorbent gelling material is a pre-swollen absorbent gelling polymer.
5. (Original) A process according to Claim 4 wherein said absorbent gelling polymer herein is selected from the group consisting of cross-linked polycarboxylates and mixtures thereof.
6. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said composition is applied onto said fabric and optionally left to act onto said fabric and/or removed from said fabric.
7. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said fabric is a carpet or a hard wearing textile and fabric, ~~e.g., upholstery, rugs, curtains.~~
8. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said pre-swollen absorbent gelling material additionally comprises an activated zeolite.
9. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said composition comprising said pre-swollen absorbent gelling material additionally comprises a solvent.

10. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said process comprises the steps of applying, in any order, to said fabric said composition comprising a pre-swollen absorbent gelling material and a second composition.
11. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 10 wherein said second composition is a liquid or solid carpet treatment composition or comprises ingredients selected from the group consisting of: water; ~~and~~ polar solvents, ~~such as ethanol, methanol, acetone;~~ and mixtures thereof.
12. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 2 wherein said composition comprising said pre-swollen absorbent gelling material additionally comprises at least one of the following: a silica; and/or a microcrystalline cellulose; and/or a cellulose or a derivative thereof.
13. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising (a) a composition comprising a pre-swollen absorbent gelling material, said absorbent gelling material being water-insoluble, water-swellaable, and capable of forming a gel when said absorbent gelling material is contacted by moisture and (b) one of the following: a cleaning composition or water.
14. (Original) A kit comprising (a) a composition comprising a pre-swollen absorbent gelling material and (b) a set of instructions to use said composition in a process according to Claim 1.

treating a fabric with a composition comprising a water-insoluble, water-swellaible absorbent gelling material.

B. Colurciello, Jr., et al. Reference.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,683,976 issued to Colurciello, Jr., et al.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Office Action does not state which of the listed ingredients (comminuted cellulose, zeolite, surfactant, and solvent) are considered to be an absorbent gelling material. The Colurciello, Jr., et al. reference does not teach or disclose a process for treating a fabric with a composition comprising a water-insoluble, water-swellaible absorbent gelling material that is capable of forming a gel when the absorbent gelling material is contacted by moisture.

C. Osberghaus, et al. Reference.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,648,882 issued to Osberghaus, et al.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Office Action does not state which of the listed ingredients (polymethacrylic acid, zeolite, surfactant, and solvent) are considered to be an absorbent gelling material. The Osberghaus, et al. reference does not teach or disclose a process for treating a fabric with a composition comprising a water-insoluble, water-swellaible absorbent gelling material that is capable of forming a gel when the absorbent gelling material is contacted by moisture.

D. Scialla, et al. Reference.

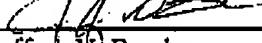
Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,928,384 issued to Scialla, et al.

The Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Office Action does not state which of the listed ingredients (maleic/acrylic acid copolymer, surfactant, and solvent) are considered to be an absorbent gelling material. The Osberghaus, et al. reference does not teach or disclose a process for treating a fabric with a composition comprising a water-insoluble, water-swellaible absorbent gelling material that is capable of forming a gel when the absorbent gelling material is contacted by moisture.

IV. Summary.

All of the rejections have been addressed. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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